

1. A composition for the prevention or treatment of adhesions adapted for application to an injured internal surface of the body comprising:

- a. viable, non-epidermal, epithelial cells;
- b. an absorbable substance capable of maintaining the viability of said cells;
- 5 and
- c. a means to temporarily separate the injured surface from surrounding tissue surfaces;

wherein said absorbable substance at least partially suspends or covers said epithelial cells.

2. The composition of claim 1 wherein said absorbable substance is the means or comprises a portion of the means to temporarily separate the injured area from other tissue surfaces.

3. The composition of claim 1 wherein said absorbable substance comprises a material selected from proteins, polysaccharides, hyaluronic acid, hyaluronate (polysaccharide), collagen, albumin, tissue sealants, fibrin-based tissue sealants, fibrinogen, polymers, polymerizable monomers, cyanoacrylates, and mixtures thereof.

4. The composition of claim 1 wherein said absorbable substance provides nutrition for said epithelial cells.

5. The composition of claim 1 wherein said absorbable substance is selected from a protein-based tissue sealant, glue, or adhesive that polymerizes, dries, or forms a stabilizing layer without activation by a radiant energy stimulus, and mixtures thereof.
6. The composition of claim 1 wherein said means to temporarily separate the injured area comprises a mesh, fabric, or strip of polymer which carries said absorbable substance and said epithelial cells.
7. The composition of claim 6 wherein said mesh, fabric, or strip comprises an absorbable polymer material selected from oxidized regenerated cellulose, polymers or copolymer of glycolic acid, lactic acid and related monomers, polydioxanone, polytrimethylene carbonate, polyalkylene glycol, polycaprolactone, hyaluronic acid, hyaluronate, cyanoacrylates, and mixtures thereof.
8. The composition of claim 6 wherein said mesh, fabric, or strip is sufficiently porous to allow suspended cells, implanted cells, or surrounding free cells to migrate and graft onto the injured area.
9. The composition of claim 6 wherein said mesh, fabric, or strip has a density of less than about 8 mg/cm².
10. The composition of claim 6 wherein said absorbable substance is applied over one or both sides of said mesh, fabric or strip.

11. The composition of claim 1 wherein said epithelial cells are harvested from autologous blood or tissue or cultured from cells harvested from the patient to be treated.
12. The composition of claim 11 wherein said epithelial cells are harvested from the patient's mouth or from surfaces comprising non-keratinizing cells.
13. The composition of claim 1 wherein said absorbable substance is a layer or layers comprising a material selected from coarse granules, fibers, and/or mesh, and where said layer or layers are adapted to adhere to the injured surface by an adhesive, or by the wetness of the tissue.
14. The composition of claim 3 wherein said absorbable substance is fibrin glue.
15. The composition of claim 1 in the form selected from a liquid, paste, gel, solid, mesh or fabric.

16. A method for the prevention or treatment of adhesions comprising applying a composition comprising fibrin-based tissue sealant, glue, or adhesive to one or more injured internal surfaces so as to temporarily separate the injured area from other tissue and to protect, nourish and promote the regeneration of epithelial cells for reformation of
5 an epithelial layer over said injured area.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein the composition includes viable, non-epidermal, epithelial cells.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein the composition sustains the viability of the epithelial cells.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein the injury occurred in the course of a surgical procedure.

20. The method of claim 19 wherein the surgery is performed in the pelvis, abdomen, thoracic cavity, pericardium, spinal cord, dura, tendon or tendon sheath cavity.

21. A method for the treatment and prevention of adhesions in a patient, comprising the steps of:

- a. surgically accessing an animal or human pelvis, abdomen, thorax, pericardium, spinal cord, dura, tendon, tendon sheath, or tissues covered by an epithelial layer where adhesion(s) have formed or may form;
- b. dividing one or more adhesions that may be present or conducting other surgery, thereby forming an injured area;
- c. providing viable epithelial cells or assuring that viable epithelial cells are present in or surrounding said injured area; and
- d. applying an absorbable substance, protein or polymer in one or more layers over said viable epithelial cells and said injured area to stabilize and temporarily separate the injured area from surrounding organ surfaces.

22. The method of claim 21 wherein said absorbable substance polymerizes, dries, or forms a stabilizing layer without activation by a radiant stimulus.

23. The method of claim 21 wherein all or a portion of said epithelial cells are suspended in said absorbable substance, protein, or polymer for delivery to the injured area.

24. The method of claim 21 further comprising applying one or more strips of absorbable sheet, mesh or fabric over said injured area, said absorbable substance layers being applied under and/or on top of said strips.

25. The method of claim 24 wherein said strips of absorbable sheet, mesh or fabric have a density of less than about 8 mg/cm^2 and are permeable by free epithelial cells.
26. The method of claim 25 further comprising attaching of said absorbable sheet, mesh or fabric to the injured area.
27. The method of claim 26 wherein said attachment is achieved by suturing, clipping, stapling, or using a glue, adhesive or sealant for the purpose of bonding said strips in place.
28. The method of claim 21 wherein said viable epithelial cells are harvested from autologous tissue or cultured from cells harvested from the patient.
29. The method of claim 28 wherein said viable epithelial cells are harvested from the patient's mouth or from surfaces comprising non-keratinizing cells.
30. The method of claim 21 wherein at least a portion of the absorbable substance is derived from an animal, cadaver, human donor blood or tissue, or autologous blood or tissue.
31. The method of claim 21 wherein said viable cells are epithelial cells surrounding or present in said injured area.

32. The method of claim 21 wherein said absorbable substance is also used for delivery of medications, growth factors or nutrients to said injured area.

33. The method of claim 21 wherein the absorbable substance comprises fibrin glue.